

## CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

- 1           1.     An interdiscal tensiometer, comprising:  
2                 a load measuring means for measuring load between two points; and  
3                 a distance measuring means for measuring distance between said two  
4     points.
  
- 1           2.     An interdiscal tensiometer, comprising:  
2                 a pair of primary members being hingedly fixed together, each one of said  
3     pair of primary members having a contact tine;  
4                 a tension measuring device for measuring load said contact tines;  
5                 a distance measuring device for measuring distance between said contact  
6     tines;  
7                 wherein said contact tines are adapted to engage a pair of intervertebral  
8     bodies such that said load measuring means can measure a load therein and said  
9     distance measuring means can measure a distance therebetween.
  
- 1           3.     A method of using an interdiscal tensiometer, comprising the steps of:  
2                 a pair of primary members being hingedly fixed together, each one of said  
3     pair of primary members having a contact tine;  
4                 inserting each of said contact tine between at least two vertebral bodies;  
5                 measuring a load between said at least two vertebral bodies; and  
6                 measuring a distance between said at least two vertebral bodies.